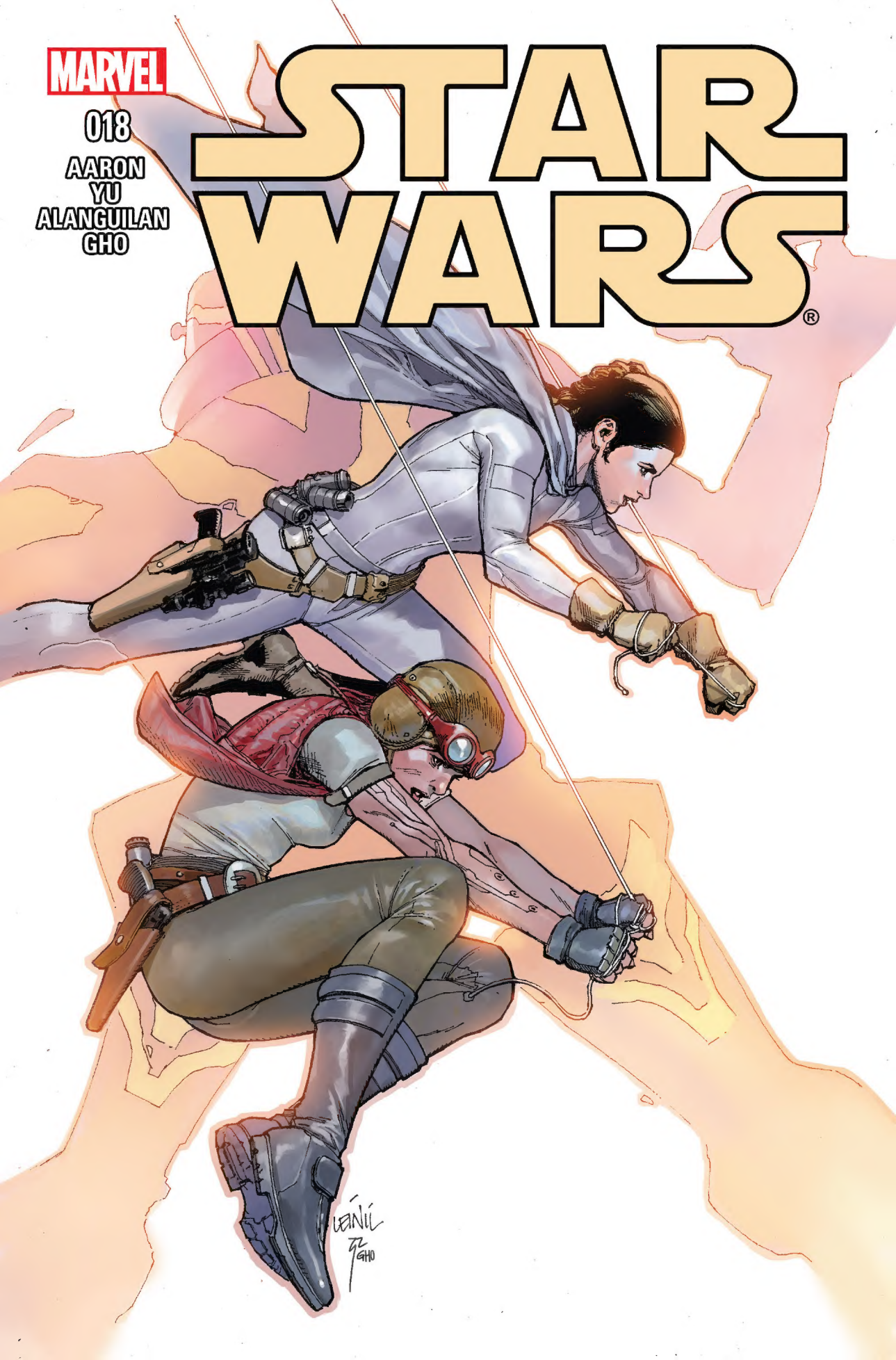
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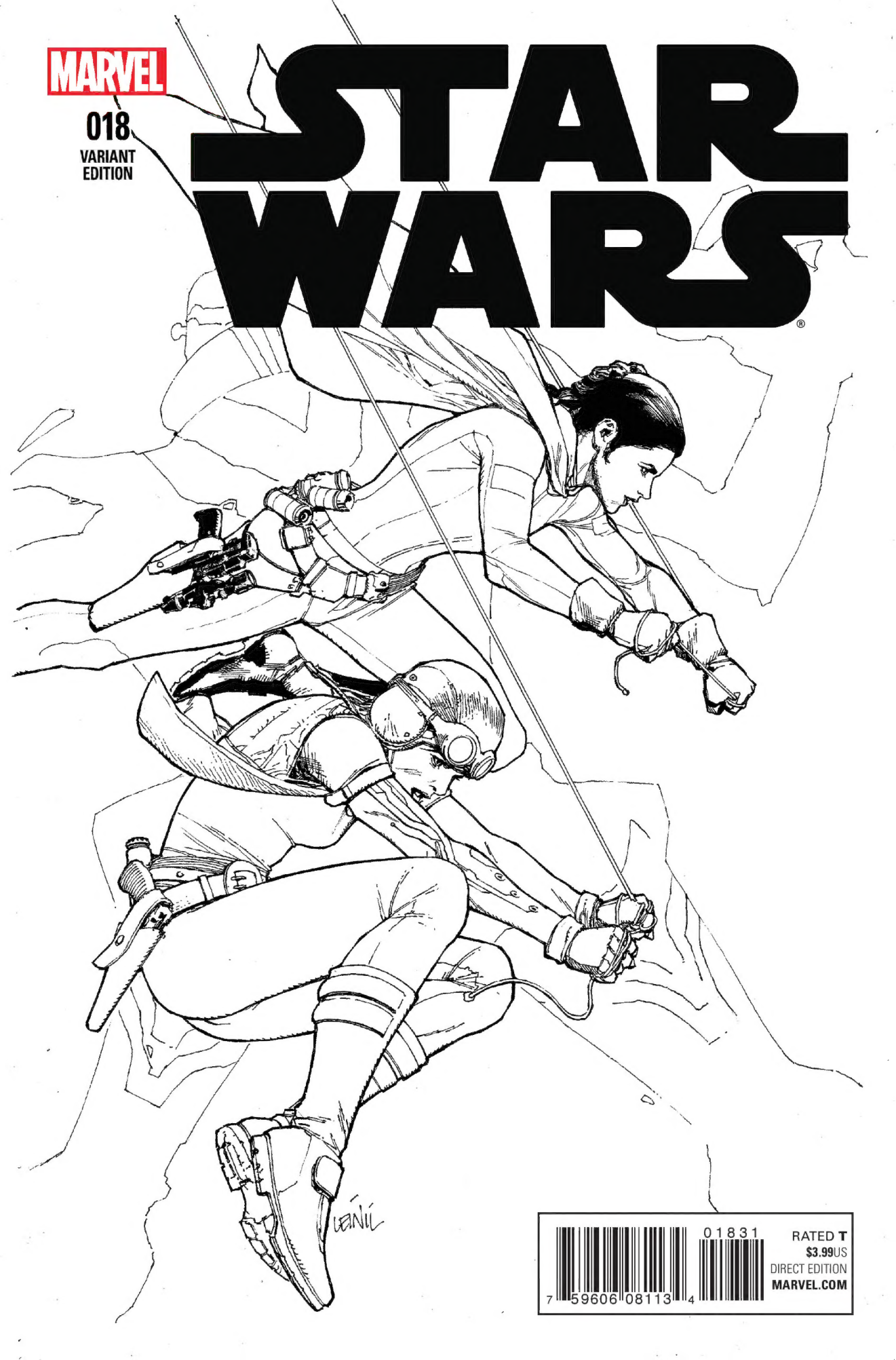
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Book IV, Part III

REBEL JAIL

It is a period of renewed hope for the Rebellion. Rebel heroes Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Princess Leia have captured Darth Vader's ally, droid expert Dr. Aphra, to obtain Imperial information.

While the Princess is securing Dr. Aphra at Sunspot Prison, an unknown attacker assumes control of the facility and begins eliminating the prisoners. Elsewhere, Luke and Han have taken a nerf smuggling job in order to regain the Alliance funds Han lost gambling.

Back at the prison, Leia and Sana Starros have forged an alliance with Dr. Aphra to take down the prison's mysterious invader – an enemy who may not be so mysterious after all....

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IBAAR.
OUTER RIM.

C'MON, YOU OWE ME THIS ONE. YOU KNOW YOU DO.

OWE YOU? FOR *WHAT?*

FOR SAVING YOUR BUTT, HAN. I TOOK OUT *ALL THREE* OF THOSE IMPERIAL FIGHTERS.

KID, THE WAY I WAS OUTFLYING THOSE BUCKET-HEADS, A BLIND GUNGAN COULD'VE BLASTED THOSE SHIPS.

IF I OWE YOU FOR ANYTHING, LUKE, IT'S FOR TURNING MY SHIP INTO A *BARNYARD.*

HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO MAKE ME A SMUGGLER. SO I SMUGGLED.

I THINK I WAS PRETTY GOOD AT IT, TOO.

GOOD SMUGGLERS MAKE *CREDITS.* WE'VE BARELY GOT ENOUGH TO COVER THE SUPPLIES WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BUY FOR THE REBELLION.

LET'S HOPE YOU'RE BETTER AT *SCRUBBING* THAN YOU ARE SMUGGLING...

...BECAUSE YOU'RE GONNA SCRUB EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THAT SHIP OR CHEWIE'S GONNA KILL US BOTH.

FINE, I'LL CLEAN THE SHIP. BUT FIRST...

...C'MON, HAN. YOU GOTTA LET ME.

JUST A FEW PARSECS, THAT'S ALL.

CAN'T DO IT, KID. SORRY.

YEAH, WELL, I'M SORRY TOO THEN, I GUESS. HOPEFULLY SHE WON'T BE TOO MAD WHEN I TELL HER.

HUH? TELL WHO WHAT?

TELL LEIA HOW YOU GAMBLED AT SABACC WITH THE ALLIANCE'S MONEY.

...

A FEW PARSECS. THAT'S IT.

HUMPH.

WHAT "HUMPH"? WHAT ARE YOU HUMPHING ABOUT?

I DON'T KNOW, SHE'S JUST...A LITTLE MORE ***SLUGGISH*** THAN I EXPECTED.

SLUGGISH?! YOUR BRAIN'S SLUGGISH, KID.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO ADJUST THE--

THAT'S IT, GET UP. YOU'RE DONE.

AH C'MON, WE HAD A DEAL, HAN.

THEN JUST...***SLOW DOWN,*** WOULD YA? WE AREN'T MAKING A RUN AT THE DEATH STAR.

WATCH OUT FOR THAT ASTEROID.

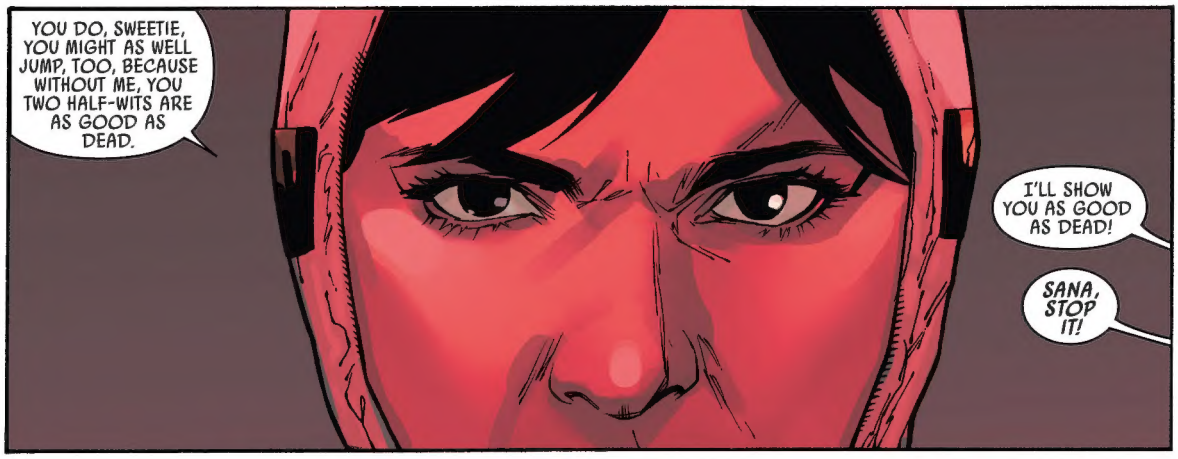
I SEE IT.

I KNOW YOU SEE IT! I JUST WANT YOU TO NOT HIT IT!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

"GET IT OFF!"
SUNSPOT PRISON.
GAAGHH. GET IT OFF.
HOLD STILL. ALMOST GOT IT.
IT'S CHOKING ME.
I KNOW. THESE THINGS ARE SO STRONG. MUST HAVE EXTRA STRENGTH PISTONS IN THE ARMS. WOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE IN ACTION BEFORE.
SHOOT IT. SHOOT IT IN THE...
AH, DON'T BE A BABY, I'VE ALMOST GOT...
AAHH!

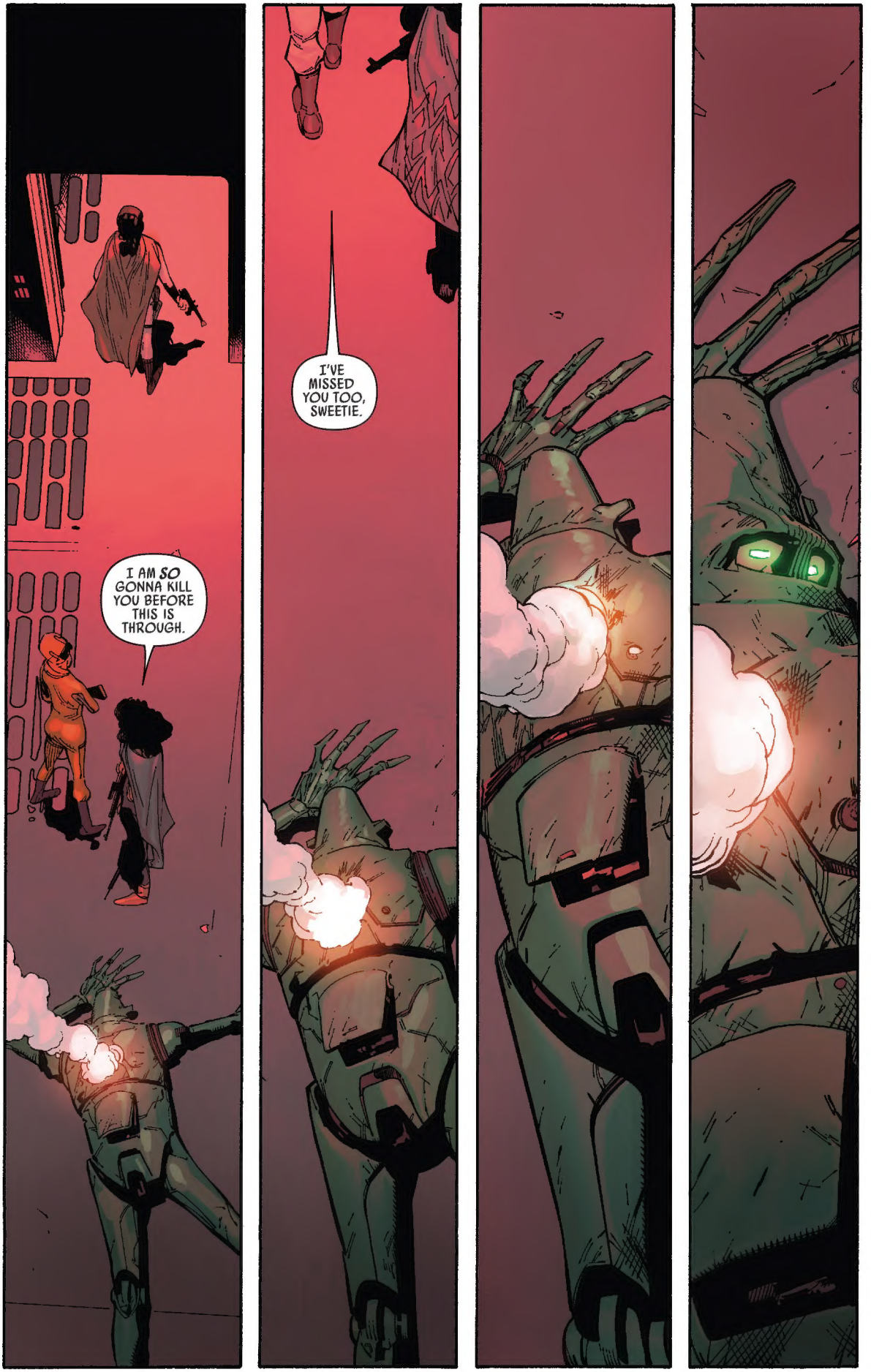
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR? I WAS REWIRING IT. I ALMOST HAD US OUR VERY OWN IG-RM DROID.
IT WAS KILLING SANA.
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FOCUSING ON THE NEGATIVE HERE, PRINCESS.
IF YOU CAN CALL THAT A NEGATIVE.
PLAY NICE, DR. APHRA, OR I CAN'T PROTECT YOU FROM WHAT'S OUT THERE.
OR FROM HER.
I'M GONNA KILL HER.
PROTECT ME? YOU GUYS CAN'T EVEN PROTECT YOURSELVES.
SANA, WERE YOU ABLE TO SEND THE MESSAGE?
LET'S SEE HOW SHE LIKES BEING STRANGLED.
SANA!
NOT SURE. TAPPED INTO THE PRISON'S COMM LINES.
COULDN'T GET A STRONG ENOUGH SIGNAL TO REACH THE REBEL FLEET, BUT IF THERE'S SOMEBODY FRIENDLY IS IN THE AREA, WE MIGHT GET LUCKY.
WAS BUSY TRYING TO BOOST THE SIGNAL WHEN THIS DROID JUMPED ME.
I THOUGHT STAYING ALIVE WAS OUR MISSION. ALSO, I DON'T REMEMBER AGREEING TO TAKE ORDERS FROM PRINCESSES.
YOU'RE STILL A PRISONER HERE. DON'T FORGET THAT.
IF YOU'D RATHER TAKE YOUR CHANCES IN YOUR CELL THAN WITH US...
I STILL SAY WE THROW HER INTO THE SUN.
DOC HERE LET IT WALK RIGHT UP ON ME.
I MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO FIX IT. I JUST NEED...
GET AWAY FROM THE DROID, DOCTOR. THAT'S NOT OUR MISSION.

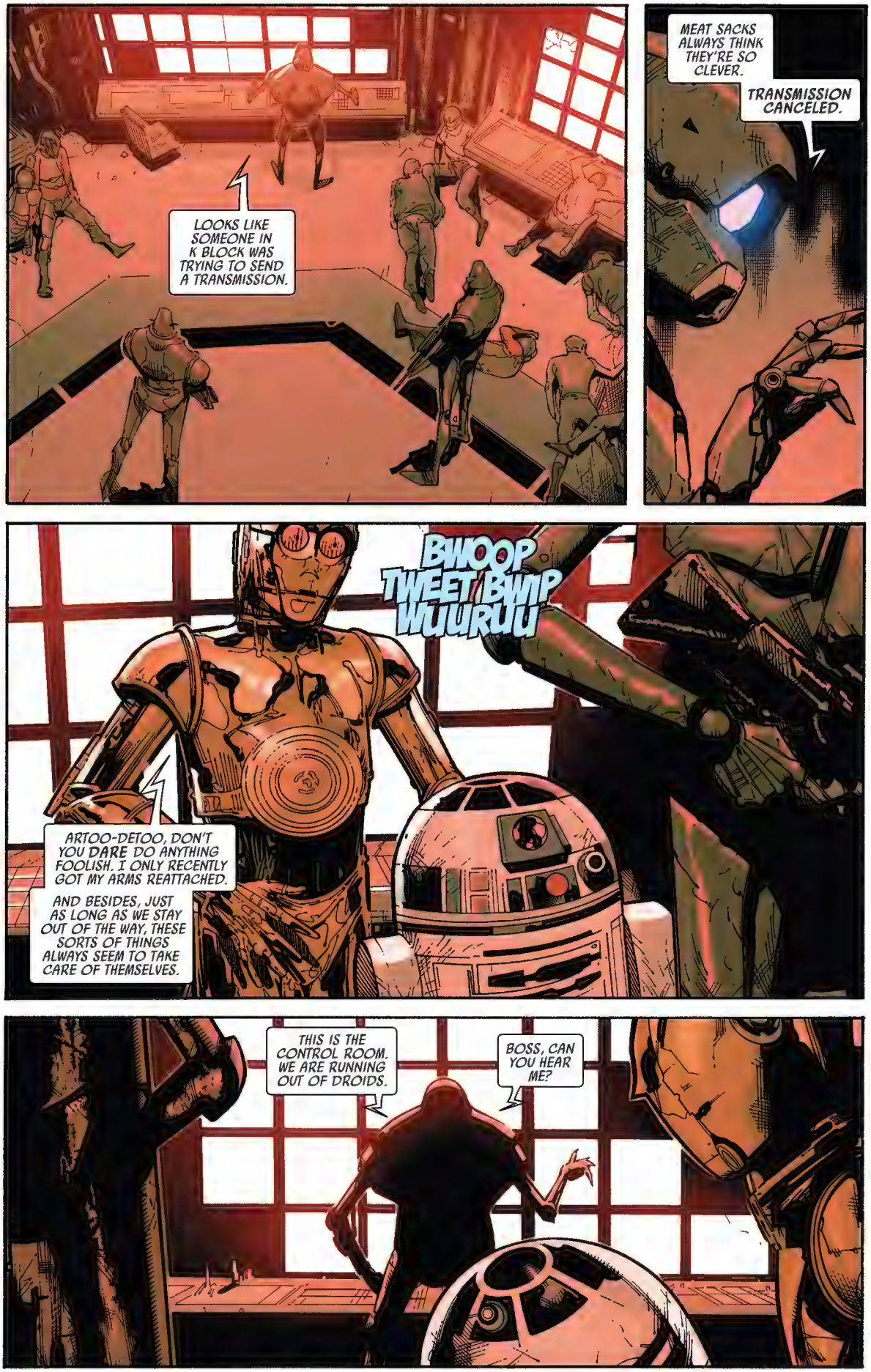

YOU DO, SWEETIE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUMP, TOO, BECAUSE WITHOUT ME, YOU TWO HALF-WITS ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD.
I'LL SHOW YOU AS GOOD AS DEAD!
SANA, STOP IT!

THIS PRISON IS UNDER SIEGE BY AN UNKNOWN FORCE. ONE WHO'S DETERMINED TO KILL EVERY PRISONER HE CAN.
OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE SURE *EVERYONE* GETS OUT OF HERE *ALIVE.*
AND WE'RE *FAILING.*

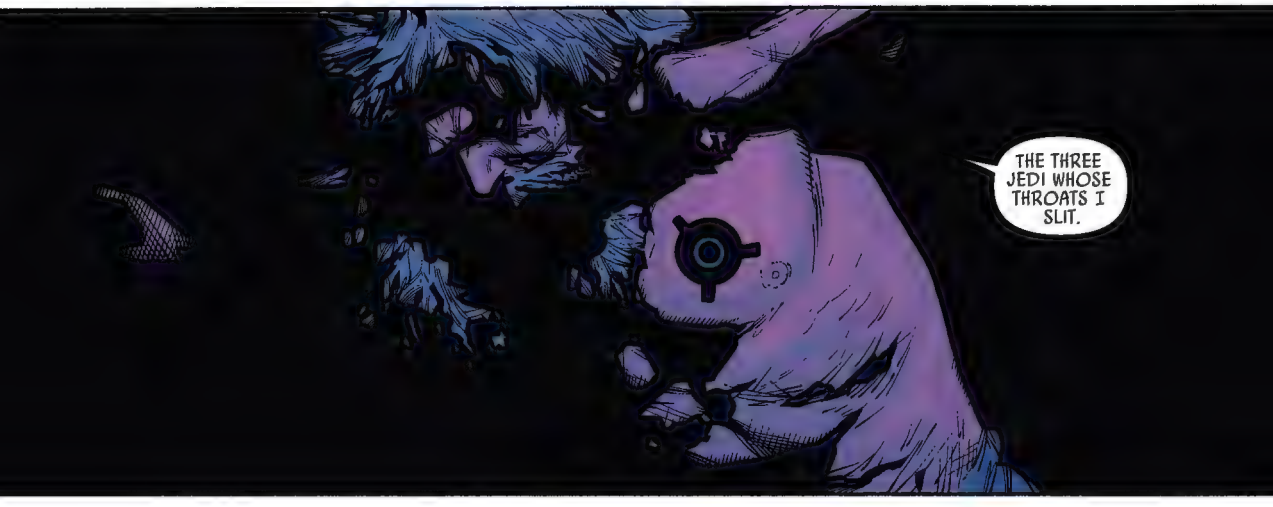
EVERYONE ON THIS CELL BLOCK IS DEAD. SO WE MOVE TO THE NEXT ONE. LET'S GO.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS. YOU'RE EVEN CRAZIER THAN SHE IS.
WHY ARE WE TRYING TO SAVE A BUNCH OF PRISONERS? WE NEED TO BE GETTING TO THE DOCKING BAY AND GETTING OUT OF HERE.
OR THE ARMORY. I'D BE COOL WITH GOING TO THE ARMORY. AS LONG AS IT'S A BIG ONE.

WE'RE NOT LEAVING. AND I BARELY TRUST YOU WITH A RIFLE, DOCTOR, LET ALONE ANYTHING BIGGER.
NEXT CELL BLOCK, LADIES. MOVE.


I AM SO GONNA KILL YOU BEFORE THIS IS THROUGH.
I'VE MISSED YOU TOO, SWEETIE.


LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IN K BLOCK WAS TRYING TO SEND A TRANSMISSION.
MEAT SACKS ALWAYS THINK THEY'RE SO CLEVER.
TRANSMISSION CANCELED.
BWOOP TWEET BWIP WUURUU
ARTOO-DETOO, DON'T YOU DARE DO ANYTHING FOOLISH. I ONLY RECENTLY GOT MY ARMS REATTACHED.
AND BESIDES, JUST AS LONG AS WE STAY OUT OF THE WAY, THESE SORTS OF THINGS ALWAYS SEEM TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.
THIS IS THE CONTROL ROOM. WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF DROIDS.
BOSS, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

BOSS?
OPEN CELL SEVENTEEN.
THEY KEPT YOU IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL. THERE MUST BE A REASON FOR THAT.
TELL ME WHAT IT IS.
THREE REASONS.


THE THREE JEDI WHOSE THROATS I SLIT.

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT IT WASN'T MORE.
WHAT ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?
ONE MORE THING YOU WILL REGRET.
HEH. NOT AS MUCH AS *YOU* WILL.
HRRH!
GUGGH!
YOUR EMPEROR PALPATINE...
...IS A *SITH LORD.*
WHAT?

HURRGH!
IT FEELS GOOD TO FINALLY TELL SOMEONE...MY SECRET.
THANK YOU FOR THAT.
CONTROL ROOM.
OPEN CELL EIGHTEEN.

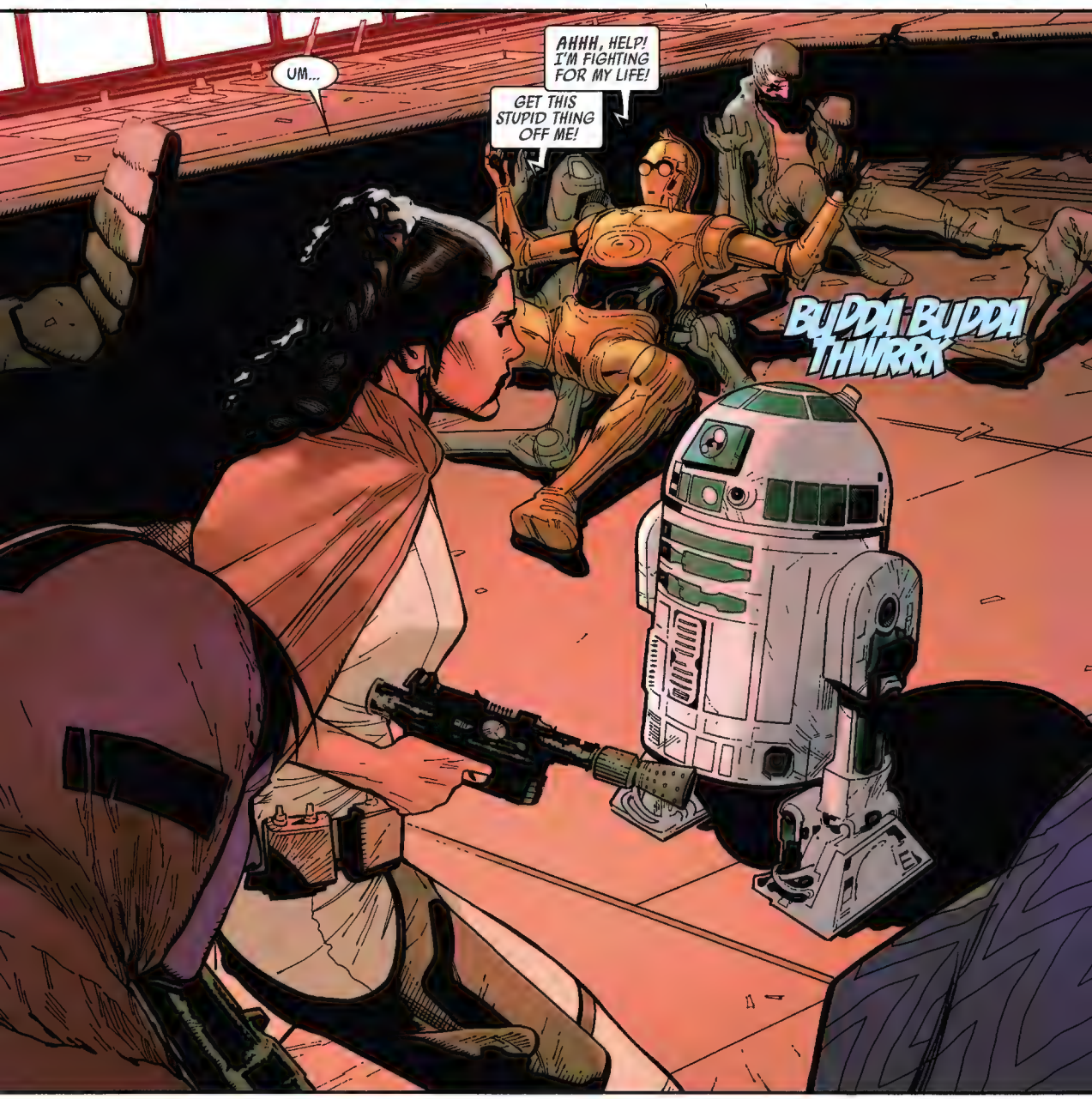
YOU'RE LOSING THE BATTLE, PRINCESS.
WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE THE WAR.
AAAARRGH!! AAAAAAARRGGH!!
CAN YOU HEAR THAT, PRINCESS? THOSE ARE THE SCREAMS OF A MONSTER.
WE SHOULD BE MAKING ALL OF THEM SCREAM.
I WILL LEAD THE WAY.
I AM WHAT YOU MADE ME, PRINCESS. I AM A TRUE SOLDIER OF THE ALLIANCE.
I AM EXACTLY WHAT THIS GALAXY NEEDS.

WE'VE GOT MOVEMENT IN THIS SECTOR!
YOU AND YOU! OUTSIDE! GUARD THE DOORS!
YOU SEE, I TOLD YOU. NO DOUBT THAT'S PRINCESS LEIA COME TO RESCUE US.
WHY IS IT ALWAYS UP TO ME TO BE THE OPTIMISTIC ONE?
BUDDA BBRRRRP
YOU TWO! GO STAND BY THE DOOR.
IF ANYONE BUSTS IN SHOOTING MAKE SURE THEY HIT YOU FIRST.
I TAKE IT ALL BACK. WE'RE DOOMED.
BWOOP BWOOP FWEEEOOO
LOOK OUT, YOU CLUMSY RUST BUCKET! YOU'RE...
HEY!

WE'LL NEVER GET THOSE DOORS OPEN! THIS WAS A TERRIBLE PLAN!
THERE WAS A PLAN?!
JUST KEEP SHOOTING!
MY KIND OF PLAN!
ONE LAST DROID, BUT HE'S GOT US PINNED DOWN!
LAST DROID? THAT'S NOT THE LAST DROID.

UH-OH.
SEE? TOLD YOU I WAS REWIRING IT.
WWWRRRZZT
WWWRRRZZT
VZZZZK

NOBODY MOVE!
MOVE ONCE, YOU WON'T BE MOVING AGAIN.
HI, I'M NOT A REBEL, BUT I'LL STILL SHOOT YOU.


UM...
AHHH, HELP! I'M FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE!
GET THIS STUPID THING OFF ME!
BUDDA BUDDA THWRRK

OH MY, IS THAT WHAT FISTICUFFS ARE LIKE?
I FEEL I ACQUITTED MYSELF RATHER WELL.
ARTOO, PLUG IN AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE PRISON.
WELL? DON'T ALL THANK ME AT ONCE.
OH, I'LL THANK YOU ALL RIGHT. RIGHT AFTER I SHOOT THAT THING IN THE FACE.
MOVE ASIDE, DOC.
WHO'S BEHIND THIS? AND WHERE IS HE?
HEH. IF ONLY I WAS PROGRAMMED TO LAUGH, I WOULD CACKLE LIKE A KOWAKIAN MONKEY-LIZARD.
HE'S TRYING TO TEACH YOU SOMETHING, YOU KNOW. THE WAY YOU ONCE TAUGHT HIM.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHO IS HE?!

MOVE ASIDE, I SAID.
COME OFF IT, SANA. THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE DROID.
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO GET OVER YOUR CRUSHES.
AND YOU SHOULD GROW SOME GUTS AND LEARN TO STAB PEOPLE IN THE FRONT FOR A CHANGE.
LAST WARNING. STAND ASIDE, APHRA.
EVERYBODY STOP YELLING BUT ME!
I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO'S--
SOUNDS LIKE WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME.
WHAT? HAN? IS THAT YOU?
LUKE AND I GOT YOUR MESSAGE. SO RELAX, WILL YA, YOUR HIGHNESS?

WE'RE HERE TO SAVE THE DAY.

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